



NIRPC

Chuck Oberlie

Mayor, City of Michigan City

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Chuck Oberlie was sworn in as Michigan City's 39th mayor on January 1, 2004. Chuck's election as Mayor of Michigan City, a city incorporated in 1836 and now populated with 32,900 citizens, represents the culmination of 36 years public service and a record of accomplishment that have propelled Chuck towards the mayor's office.

Chuck was raised in Lafayette, Indiana, and subsequently attended Ball State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban & Regional Planning.

Chuck began reinvigorating Michigan City's neighborhoods as a staff member of the Michigan City Planning Department. Chuck was a catalyst for the creation of neighborhood improvement associations; he was a key resource for managing local urban renewal grant programs; and, with Mayor Joe LaRocco, Chuck helped secure grant funding to build the City Hall complex in downtown Michigan City. Chuck's leadership and demonstrated accomplishments resulted in his advancement to Director of Planning and Development for the City of Michigan City.

After 16 years of improving neighborhoods, Chuck began several years of effort aimed at improving economic conditions for Northwest Indiana families, including: as the Economic Development Director and then the President of the Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce; and, as the President of the Northwest Indiana Forum, then a seven-county economic development agency.

In 1992, Mayor Bob Behler appointed Chuck as City Controller for Michigan City and Chuck was re-appointed as City Controller by Mayor Sheila Brillson.

As mayor, Chuck remains focused on the community improvement initiatives he has worked on for the past 36 years: helping create good paying jobs for local citizens; strengthening local neighborhoods through crime prevention; and stabilizing and reducing local taxes.

Chuck has taken his detailed Administrative Improvement Matrix (A.I.M.) and initiated the ***AIM High!*** Program with City department heads and staff members. Nearly four dozen key City employees from over twenty different city departments have been assigned to five ***AIM High!*** Teams: Administration, Capital Projects, Public Safety, Services and Attractions. These teams meet regularly to brainstorm and to think outside of the box in order to achieve improved effectiveness and efficiencies in their assigned teams.

With his broad range of experience and capabilities, Chuck is a contributing member in many public service organizations and professional associations. In addition, Chuck has volunteered his personal time to advancing many worthwhile local causes and organizations.